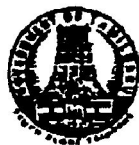


Government Museum, Chennai
MUSEUM'S JOURNAL
(April 1998 - November 1999)



National Art Gallery (Victoria Hall) 1906 A.D.

Published by
R. KANNAN, I.A.S.,
Commissioner of Museums,
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Government Museum, Chennai
MUSEUM'S JOURNAL

April 1998 – November 1999

Chief Editor
R. KANNAN I.A.S.,
Commissioner of Museums

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Curators

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Commissioner of Museums,
Government Museum, Chennai.
16-12-1999

Foreword

Tribute to Dr. S.T. Satyamurti

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Letter from the Commissioner

I am happy to present the Journal of this Museum. I assure that we shall reach out to all our readers regularly once in six months in the future. This Journal carries news for the period from April 1998 to November 1999.

The Government of Tamil Nadu sanctioned new museums at Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Kanchipuram. These were duly started. Many new activities to develop the Chennai (Madras) Museum and district museums are planned.

In order to improve the cleanliness in the galleries wet and dry vacuum cleaners have been purchased and they are used for regular cleaning. The park in the front of the National Art Gallery is being improved with the help of Lions Club of Chennai Parrys. The leakage to the heritage buildings in the Museum campus is being attended to with the help of the P.W.D. Mr. Balasubramanian, Curator and Mr. Subramaniam have found out a chemical to arrest the leakage. The latest publications relating to Museology are being purchased for the Museum library. In order to make easy registration of antiquities and to make available information for those who seek them through the web site, computers have been purchased. The web site is being set-up. Internet connection is being provided.

As the Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory of the Museum has been approved as a research institution, one part time student is conducting research in conservation of metals. In order to make easy the authentication of bronzes, a project on holographing of rare bronzes and setting up a holographic gallery in collaboration with the Centre for Laser Technology of Anna University is yet to take off shortly. Fingerprinting of bronze icons is being done in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam.

An exhibition on Contemporary Art in collaboration with Values Art Gallery was also conducted. Ten oil paintings from Madras Medical College, two paintings and two books from Govt. Ophthalmic Hospital,

Chennai, have been received for restoration and the work is in progress. Ten oil paintings at Madras Christian College and two gold flaked Tanjore paintings at Meenakshi Temple, Madurai, have been examined to take up restoration work. Government Museum, Chennai has involved itself in the conservation of Heritage buildings of the Southern Railway. Inspection of antiquities, sculptures and monuments at Pettavaythalai, Rameshwaram etc., were done. We have been involved in the design of a culture museum for Chandrasekhara Saraswati Deemed University at Kancheepuram.

The monthly lecture programme at Chennai was revived from September, 1999. Summer courses, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, competition etc., were conducted both in Chennai and in the district museums. Mr. K.T. Narasimhan, Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India delivered the IWA Endowment lecture on "Recent Discoveries at Mamallapuram".

Curators did research on topics pertaining to their subjects and these were published in the form of articles and books. The Laboratory, Computer room and photographic studio have been air-conditioned. Repairs to the ceiling of the Museum Theatre to plug leakage have started by the Public Works Department.

Action has been taken to establish a History Museum to reflect the history of Tamil Culture and Civilisation in Chennai with the Hon'ble Minister, Dr. Thamizhkudimagan taking the initiative.

The research publications by the Curators including the Commissioner of Museums such as Cannons, Snakes, Proceedings of the seminar on Conservation of Cultural Property, Coins of Tamil Nadu etc., are being released on 16.12.1999.

I have given a brief overview of the important activities that have taken place. Suggestions are welcome on how to improve this journal in future issues.

14-12-1999

(R. Kannan)



A TRIBUTE TO DR. S.T. SATYAMURTI

Dr. N. Devasahayam

Former Deputy Director of Museums

Dr. V. Jeyaraj,

Curator, Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory

R. Balasubramanian,

Curator for Archaeology

On first of November 1999, after two decades of his retirement, from the post of Director of Museums Dr. S. T. Satyamurti breathed his last. His passing away has indeed left a vacuum in the world of museologists and zoologists in particular to the growth and development of the Government Museum, Chennai. He succeeded Dr. A. Ayyappan as the second Indian Director of the Government Museum, Chennai in the late 50s. He had 36 years of useful and fruitful service in the Government Museum, Chennai including for a short spell in Darjeeling Museum and at Bombay Natural History Museum. His forte was museology besides zoology. He laid firm foundation for the progress in all directions of the Government Museum, Chennai. He was the first to get central assistance-cum-grant for encouraging old showcases in zoology, anthropology and botanical galleries in 60s with modern built in showcases.

He was instrumental for opening new galleries and blocks such as extension blocks to zoology and Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory, Philatelic Gallery, Bronze Gallery etc. He was the first to start the first typed

Museum Newsletter bearing the news such as monthly lectures, exhibitions, seminars, training programmes etc., to popularise the subject of museology and to create an awareness of the importance of museums.

He was a researcher of high order and has brought out more than two dozen monographs, bulletins and guide books apart from more than 150 research articles in leading zoological and museological research journals in India and abroad.

He was a member of various governmental and museological committees and his contributions have been duly acknowledged. He had been on world official tours several times to study the latest techniques in museology and the last but not the least, he was a reviewer of museological and archaeological books in The Hindu even before at the time of his death.

In commemoration of his useful services to the museum field a committee has been formed recently by his colleagues, well wishers and friends to institute an endowment to cherish his ideals and thoughts in the field of museology and zoology.

MUSEUM NEWS

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM, CHENNAI – 600 008.

MISSION STATEMENT

Museums are to develop and diffuse knowledge. The cultural and educational values of museums have to be fully utilised in Third World Countries.

Chennai Government Museum aims:

In its Archaeology Section to highlight South Indian sculptures and idols. This would reflect the high proficiency in carving and casting technology in South India. The bronzes cast by the famous Lost Wax Process are the jewels in the crown.

The Numismatic Section with its huge collections of coins, philatelic materials and documents aims to understand the culture, history and technology of India and its relationship with the outside world.

The Art Section tries to reflect the changing trends of painting starting from the period of the Mughals, adaptation of Western oil on canvas painting technique by Raja Ravi Varma in 19th century to the present era.

The Anthropology Section helps to understand the origin of human culture in South India and the customs and manners of South Indian tribes and its evolution into the present stylised forms.

The Geology Section tries to present the richness of South Indian rock formations and mineral varieties and informs the ways they are formed, their scientific exploitation and their effects on ecology.

The Botany Section exhibits the existing flora of South India with a special emphasis on Commercial Botany.

The Zoology Section with stuffed birds and animals in well designed dioramas helps in the comparative study of South Indian fauna with those of other countries.

The Children's Section aims to encourage children to touch and feel exhibits to help them understand their heritage and to develop scientific temper.

The Chemical Conservation Section tries to preserve the objects in the museum in their pristine form.

The Design and Display Section is in charge of galleries and the thematic presentation of the collection. This is to attract and sustain the interest of viewer.

The Education Section in coordination with all other sections tries to act as a bridge between society, especially the learning younger generation and the museum

A Web site to enable on line access and viewing of all the galleries and artefacts should enable anywhere in the world to visit the museum

Chennai-600 008,
12 07 1999.

R. KANNAN, I . A . S.,
Commissioner of Museums

MUSEUM NEWS

Special Features

The Honourable Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture, Hindu Religious and Endowments, Government of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M. Thamizhkudimagan accompanied the then Central Industrial Minister, Thiru. Murasoli. Maran, M.P. and visited the Museum on 19th June 1998 and offered their suggestions to improve the museum. On 22nd December 1999, the Honourable Minister for Tamil Official Language, Culture, Hindu Religious and Endowments, Dr. M. Thamizhkudimagan, inaugurated the free Siddha Medical Camp in the Museum Theatre. Mr. Horoshi Hirobagashi, Ambassador of Japan visited the museum, especially the Amaravati Sculpture Gallery on 30th July 1998. Dr. R. Vaidyanatha Iyer, Secretary to the Department of Culture, Government of India, visited the Government Museum, Chennai and discussed with the Principal Commissioner of Museums, Thiru. S. Rangamani, I.A.S., on the reorganisation of the Amaravati Sculpture Gallery and necessary financial assistance from the Government of India. A seminar on Conservation of Cultural Property was conducted in the Chennai Museum Theatre on the event of the Silver Jubilee of the course on Care of Museum Objects.

Museums at Thiruvavarur, Nagapattinam and Kanchipuram were inaugurated by the Honourable Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Dr. M. Thamizhkudimagan.



Important Additions

As Treasure-trove Finds

In Chennai

Thirteen bronze antiquities comprising the important bronze icons such as Pradoshamurty, Chandrasekara, Subramanya, Ganesa, Sridevi, Vishnu were

received as treasure-trove finds and added to the main archaeological collection of the Government Museum, Chennai

16 treasure-trove objects, from various parts of Tamil Nadu, consisting of gold, silver and brass ornaments were received and added to the anthropological collection of the museum

Seven treasure-trove finds consisting of 580 coins such as South Indian Panams, Indo-British coins, Mysore coins and coins of Nawabs were received and added to the numismatic collection of the museum.

In Districts

Madurai

31 treasure-trove finds including Vishnu (10th C. AD , Madurai), Vishnu (17th C. AD., Thirumangalam), etc., were received in the Government Museum, Madurai and added to its collection.

Vellore

Treasure-trove objects such as Sridevi (Sandapet, Gudiyatham), Tirthankara (Katpadi) were received and added to the collection of the Government Museum, Vellore.

Erode

43 silver coins including Victoria rupees, 1/2 and 1/4 rupees, Edward silver rupees, George V silver rupees were received as treasure-trove finds and added to the collection of the Government Museum, Erode
Cuddalore

Treasure-trove finds such as Devi (Poondi, Panrutti taluk) Amman from Panrutti are the important antiquities added to the Government Museum collection.

Kanyakumari

Two large and heavy copper vessels (Kalkulam taluk) were received as the treasure-trove antiquities and added to the collection of the Government Museum, Kanyakumari.

Tirunelveli

A burial urn from Seran Kulam, Srivaigundam taluk, and a stone Vishnu sculpture (13th Century AD) from Saminathapuram, Palayamkottai in Tirunelveli district.

Krishnagiri

A hero stone from Bimandapalli, 12 pooja objects from Uthankarai, 16 pooja objects including a sickle from Alakkatti in Dharmapuri district were received.

Palani

Three bronze icons from Andipatti, 42 stone sculptures from Kodaikanal Lake, Nataraja (11th Century AD) and Saraswati bronze icons (19th Century AD) from Palani and a modern Nataraja form Palani and two small bronze icons from Palani, a stone inscription (16th Century AD) from Atthimarathuvalasu were received.

Thiruvavur

Six bronze icons including a Devi (12th Century, AD) from Nannilam taluk, four icons including Nataraja, Devi, Umasahita (12th Century) from Mannargudi taluk, 12 numbers of brass tools from Thiruvadanaimarudur taluk and a Siva stone sculpture from Thiruthuraiipoondi taluk were received

Sivaganga

A terracotta storage urn from Vedansandur and a Muruga bronze icon from Thirupattur were received.

Nagappattinam

Dhakshinamurthy bronze icon from Vazhgudi in Nagappattinam taluk was collected by the Collector and handed over to the museum during the inauguration of the museum..

Through Field Collection and Gift:

In Chennai

Five tribal objects including a wooden vessel, wooden jar (Anthropology), thirty six geological specimens including multi-colour granites

(Geology), 155 herbarium specimens including medicinal plants and 3 cross section of trunks of trees from Museum campus (Botany) and thirty eight zoological specimens (Zoology) were added to the collection of the Government Museum, Chennai. Working models were added in the Children's Museum, Zoology and Geological galleries. 13 first day covers (Numismatics) were received from the Postal Department.

In Districts

Madurai

Four numbers of Pandhya period bore well rings (13th Century AD), Two stone sculptures such as a Nayak Chieftain, Hanuman, a Parakeet specimen, two percussion instruments, two coins and 48 first day covers and stamps were collected.

Trichy

One Quran, one sliding scale, one stamp size painting, and a small painting were received as gifts for the Government Museum, Trichy.

Vellore

One Vishnu stone image from Vellore, one broken stone inscription of the Cholas from Sanankuppam, one Chandran stone sculpture from Solavaram and 47 first day covers and stamps were received in this museum.

Erode

Two numbers of ancient bricks, prehistoric objects, two bundles of palm-leaf manuscripts, three specimens of fossils, one dinosaur paintings, one copper embedded copper plate, one tribal pottery, 25 stamps and a painting, Horn of a bull, 5 beetles, 3 grasshoppers, 3 butterflies, flags of various countries were collected and added.

Ooty

Four household objects, 31 first day covers and old stamps were collected

Cuddalore

Two palm-leaf manuscript bundles, bones of a whale, copper coins, a metal container, a brass lamp, and 28 herbaria of Siddha medicinal plants were received.

Coimbatore

One Portuguese coin, 3 semi precious stones, a few carphological collections, 3 zoological specimens, 31 herbaria, palaeolithic stone tools from Vannatrankarai were collected.

Kanyakumari

Two specimens of snakes, one dolphin, first day covers and stamps were received.

Tirunelveli

17 coins, 3 specimens of plant origin, 5 herbaria, anthropological objects 3 paintings, one bundle of palm-leaves, one kalamkari painting, one kanjira, 15 stamps and first day covers were received.

Krishnagiri

55 numbers of first day covers and stamps were received from the postal department.

Palani

205 coins both of ancient and modern, made of copper and associated metals, 54 post cards, 16 terracotta specimens, 16 first day covers and stamps, 20 stamps, 7 fishes, 4 birds and 4 snakes were collected.

Tiruvarur

One bundle of palm-leaf manuscripts, 26 coins of modern period, one musical instrument, 5 tribal materials, 3 oil paintings and 118 number of sea animals from Nagappattinam sea coast were collected.

Sivaganga

One bundle of palm-leaf manuscript, 121 postage stamps, eight currency notes, a hand chakra, a bamboo flute, one incisor, two knives, 29 herbaria,

Kattunaicken tribal materials, 8 samples of graphite, a boomerang, 7 modern coins, a pistol, a wooden object and Chettinadu house-hold objects, one musical rock from Thirupattur were received.

Nagapattinam

Two Sethupathi coins, one Japanese sword were collected. One pith model of a temple, church and mosque emphasising Unity in Diversity with in a single enclosure was handed over to the museum in the inaugural function. Many donated antiquities and biological objects on that day to the museum

VIP Visits

In Chennai

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 19.6.1998 | The Honourble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department along with the Honourable Central Minister, Thiru. Murasoli Maram visited the museum and discussed on the development of the museum. |
| 13.5.98 | Mr. Manuf Mineshat, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Bangladesh visited the museum. |
| 30.7.98 | Mr. Horoshi Hirobayashi, Ambassador of Japan visited the museum. |
| 4.7.98 | Dr. R.Vaidyantha Iyer, Secretary to Government, Department of Culture, Government of India visited the Amaravati Gallery of the museum. |
| 22.10.98 | Dr. Thirumalai and Dr. Krishnan of the Zoological Survey of India visited the Zoological galleries of the museum and gave a report on the development of the galleries. |
| 16.8.98 | A committee sent by the Secretary, Department of Culture, Government of India comprising of Dr. Tej Singh, Director-in-charge and Dr. K. K. Jain, Senior Scientific Officer of the National Research Laboratory for Conservation, Lucknow, Dr. R. K. Sharma, Director (Science), Archaeological Survey of India, Dehradun, Dr. R. Nagasamy, Dr. B. Narasimhaiah and Thiru. N. Harinarayana inspected the Amaravati Gallery and prepared a report for the reorganisation of the Gallery seeking |

financial assistance from the Government of India.

- 10.11.98 Thiru. Basavappa Nayar, IFS, Retd. Wild Life Warden had discussions with the Principal Commissioner of Museums.
- 22.12.98 The Honourble Minister, Dr. M. Thamizhkudimagan, visited the museum and inaugurated the Free Siddha Medical Camp.
- 15.11.99 An Australian Indian Council team came to the museum and had discussions with the Commissioner of Museums on matters related to the projects between Government Museum, Chennai and Australian Indian Council.

In Districts

- 6.7.98 The Honourable Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture, Hindu Religious and Endowments, Dr. M. Thamizhkkudimagan inaugurated the museum at Thiruvavarur in the A/M Thiagarajasamy Temple Campus. Leading personalities spoke on the occasion.
- 25.1.99 The Honourable Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture, Hindu Religious and Endowments, Dr. M. Thamizhkkudimagan inaugurated the museum at Nagapattinam in the First Line Beach. Leading personalities of the district spoke on the occasion.
- 24.3.99 The Honourable Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture, Hindu Religious and Endowments, Dr. M. Thamizhkkudimagan inaugurated the museum at Kanchipuram in Munusamy Avenue. Leading personalities spoke on the occasion

Research Facilities Rendered

In Chennai

Research facilities were rendered to the following persons in the subject of archaeology: Ms. Christian Uso, USA; Mr. Patrick Gassic, Mr. Peter, Dr. Julius L.R. Mara, Prof. Sittambalam, Thiru. Tiwari, Thirumathi. Sathyabhama, Mr. Padmanabhn, Ms. Prathibha, Mr. Sivakumr, Ms. Ananthi, Mr. Ganesan, Mr. Michael, Mr. Sankar, Mr. J. Krishnamurti, Mr. Shanmugam, and Mr. Jambulingam.

Ms. Santhikul Thilak, Mr. Shandra Mohan, Mr. Manivannan, Mr. Putturvast, Ms. Theobara Chattan, Mr. Peter and Celin were provided research facilities in the anthropology section of the museum.

Mr. P. L. Kumaran, Mr. Guhan, Mr. Ayyasamy, Ms. Priscilla Jeyasingh, Mr. J. Krishnamurti and four students from an American university, Mr. Nammazhvar and Ms. Devi Thangam were given research facilities to do research in zoology.

Research facilities were rendered to Mr. J. Krishnamurthi and Mr. Ravi in botany.

Two geological specimens for Vellore museum and four other specimens were identified by the Curator of the Geology Section.

Mr. B. Livingston Jebaraj, a part-time research scholar joined in the Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory of the Museum to do research leading to Ph. D. Degree. Ms. Pavithra, Ms. Sandhya from Anna University were guided in the special project on Conservation of Historical Monuments. Facilities were rendered to do the project work on Finger Printing of Bronze Icons for the Scientists from Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam.

In Districts

Research facilities were rendered to Ms. Priya (Madurai); Mr. Natarajan, Mr. Kumaravel, Mr. Sankaran (Vellore); Dr. Nandhitha C. Krishna, Mr. Murugesan Ms. Vedavalli, Mr. Gunasekaran, Mr. Selvaraj, Mr. Pavendan, Mr. Boonkunran, Mr. Karthikeyan, M. Ravichandran, Mr. Bijai, Mr. Gobi, Ms. J. Christy (Coimbatore); Mr. Ravichandran (Ooty); Ms. Sulochana, Mr. Rajendran, Mr. Nazer, Mr. Kanagasabapathy, Ms. Sandan Shanmugam, Mr. Paramasivam, Mr. Jawahar, Ms. Leelavathy, Mr. Ramesh, Mr. Devasahayam, Mr. Vedanayagam, Pulavar Ramasamy, Mr. Thalavay, Mr. Draviam, Mr. Sudan, Mr. Balasundaram, Mr. Balakrishnan (Thirunelveli); and Mr. Samynathan (Palani), Mr. Velusamy, Mr. Thooran and Mr. Jayaprakash (Erode), Ms. Shylaja Thirumalai, Ms. Vijayalakshimi, Mr. Sasikumar, Mr. Selvam and Mr. James (Erode).

Educational activities were carried out by loaning exhibits to schools in the city and providing guide services Exhibits of Zoology, Botany, art etc., e loaned to schools for arranging exhibitions in schools

Museum Week Celebrations

In Districts

Salem

Museum week celebrations were conducted from 1 12 1998 to 7.12 1998. Children's Day programme was conducted.

Trichy

The Museum Week celebrations were carried out from 3 8 1998 to 9.8.1998 On 21.11 98 drawing competition was conducted for school children.

Vellore

The Museum Week celebrations were conducted from 3.12 1998 with various programmes such as art competition, woodcarving demonstration etc.

Erode

The Museum Week Celebrations were conducted with programmes like Essay writing, dance, rangoli, drawing from 1 12.1998 to 7 12 1998.

Coimbatore

Museum week was celebrated from 29 12 1998 with special events

Cuddalore

Museum Week was celebrated with programmes such as art and elocution competitions.

Krishnagiri

Drawing, poetic, music competitions were conducted during the Museum Week celebrations from 24 12 1998

Palani

Museum Week celebrations were conducted from 6 11 1998 to 11.11 1998 with programmes such as drawing, essay writing, oral competitions

Thiruvavarur

Museum Week celebrations were conducted with programmes such as exhibition, music competition, special lectures from 11.12.1998 to 17.12.1998.

Visits by the Commissioner of Museums

- 9.6.99 Had discussions at , Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam, with Dr Baldev Raj, Director, MMG on the Finger printing of Bronze Icons
- 14.6.99 Visited the History Museum, Cochin accompanied by Mr. K. Lakshminarayanan, Curator for Education and studied it to form a History Museum of Tamil Nadu
- 30.8.99 Led a team of curators to the Enathur University to advise the University to prepare the report on the formation of a museum.
- 6.9.99 Inspected Government Museum, Madurai and also examined two Tanjore paintings at the entrance of the Amman Sannathi of Meenakshi Amman Temple, Madurai and suggested for their restoration
- 7.9.99 Inspected and examined the buildings identified for the establishment of the District Museum, Ramanathapuram and examined the artifacts collected by the Tahsildar at Thanuskodi along with the District Collector and the Curator for Education
- 8.10.99 Visited the History Museum, Cochin along with the Honourable Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture, Hindu Religious and Endowments, Dr. M. Thamizhkudimagan, Secretary, Tamil Development-Culture and Endowments, Mr. S. Ramakrishnan, I.A.S., and Mr. Lakshminarayanan, Curator for Education.
- 12.11.99 Inspected the building identified for the establishment of the Government Museum, Karur accompanied by the Curator for Education.
- 13.11.99 Visited the Government Museum, Trichy and arranged for collecting 9th century Buddha idols, early Chola Temple architecture at Pettavaythalai and other sculptures of Mutharaia School accompanied by the Curator for Education
Inspected the Government Museum, Pudukkottai and suggested the

conservation of paintings.

Participated in the Children's Day Function arranged in the Museum along with the District Collector, Mr Harmandar singh IAS.

Training Courses and Competitions

In Chennai:

Th following training programmes and courses were conducted in the Government Museum, Chennai

11 th to 15 th May 1998	<i>Care of Library Materials</i> for the staff working in the Ramakrishna Mutt, Chennai.
1 st to 30 th June 1998	<i>Care of Museum Objects</i> for those who are working in museums and allied institutions including students
1 st to 30 th June 1998	<i>Preservation of Biological Specimens</i> for those who are working in museums and related institutions including students.
2 nd to 8 th June 1998	<i>Treasure Trove Study Course</i> for revenue, customs and police officials.
15 th Nov 98 to 8th Jan. 1999	<i>Care of Art Objects</i> for the students from the Government College of Arts and Crafts, Chennai
21 st to 25 th May 1999	<i>Importance of Geological Specimens</i> for the benefit of the geology students from Chennai
1 st to 30 th June 1999	<i>Care of Museum Objects</i> for those who are working in museum and allied departments including students.
29 th June 1999	<i>Oratorical and Essay Writing Competitions</i> on the Role of Students in the Preservation of Antiquities.
1 st Nov 99 onwards June 1999	<i>Care of Art Objects</i> for the benefit of the students of the Government College of Arts and Crafts, Chennai <i>Trainers' Training Camp</i> at National Museum, New Delhi participated by Mr. M. Mohan, Curator for Contemporary Art. And J. R. Asokan, Curator for Design and Display Section.

In Districts

28th April to My
28th 1998 *Summer Training
Camp for 500 students
Karate, Bharatha
Natyam, Dance,
Painting, toy-making
etc., (Madurai)*



15th to 24th May
1998 *Summer Training Programme (Sivaganga)*

18th Aug 1998 *Conservation of Museum Objects with Chennai Museum
(Sivaganga)*

28th & 29th Oct
1998 *Camp on Painting (Erode)*

2nd to 9th Nov
1998 *Training on Archaeology (Erode)*

22nd Feb 1999 *A workshop on
Terracotta was
conducted in the
Government
Museum, Tirunelveli
in which housewives
and students
participated.*



21st to 30th April
1999 *Summer Camp in collaboration with the Jawahar Bal
Bhavan (Madurai)*

11th May 1999 *Summer Painting Camp (Vellore)*

5th to 7th July 1999 *Training in Screen Printing (Madurai)*

July 1999 *Lawn Painting Programme (Vellore)*

Aug 1999 *Lawn Painting Programme (Vellore)*

Sept 1999 *Lawn Painting Programme (Vellore)*

Oct 1999 *Painting Competition and Workshop on Museum (Vellore)*

6th to 8th Aug 1999 *Two days training camp on Inscriptions (Training on Preservation of Zoological Specimens was held in Government Museum, Palani by the Curator for Zoology Section of Government Museum, Chennai*



November 1999 *Children's Day Celebrations (Pudukkottai and Palani) Competitions on Drawing, Essay Writing etc. (Palani)*

Seminars and Lectures

The department of Museums conducted the following seminars:

- 25th Jan 99 *Nagapattinam District – An Introduction at the time of the inauguration of the museum at Nagapattinam.*
- 8th Mar 99 *Indian Coins (Palani)*
- March 99 *Folk Arts (Palani)*
- 30th June 1999 *Conservation of Cultural Property conducted during the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Course on Care of Museum Objects.*

Free Siddha Medical Camps were conducted in the Government Museum, Chennai on 22nd December 1998, 19th January 1999, 17th February 1999, 17th March 1999 and the camp benefited hundreds of publics. The following popular lectures pertaining to Siddha Medicine were conducted as follows along with demonstration of Yoga:

- 22nd Dec 1998 *Nurturing Hair Growth – Dr. P. Jayaprakash Narayanan, Vice Principal, Siddha Medical College, Chennai.*
- 19th Jan 1999 *Unani Medicine for Menstrual Problems – Dr. M. Radhika, Assistant Medical Officer, Ayurveda Medical College, Chennai.*
- 17th Feb 1999 *Unani Medicine for General Diseases – Dr. Sheique Sahul*

17th March 1999

Ahmd, Vice Principal, Unani Medical College, Chennai.
Herbal Medicine Used for Day-to-day Illness – Dr. K. Jayapal, Principal, Siddha Medical College, Chennai.

Monthly popular and endowment lectures were conducted in the Government Museum, Chennai as follows:

4th May 1998

What is Temple? And what is its significance? – Dr. Ganpathi Sthapathi

18th May 1998

Preventive Conservation – Dr. V. Jeyaraj, Curator, Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory

August 1999

Recent discoveries in Mahabalipuram, K. T. Narasimhan, Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Chennai Circle, Chennai.

2nd Sept. 1999

Museums in Tamil Nadu – Dr. V. Jeyaraj, Curator, Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory spoke. Mr. S. Ramakrishnan, I.A.S., Secretary to Government inaugurated the Monthly Lecture series.



23rd Oct.

19 99

30th Nov. 1999

Jain Iconography – Mr. K. Lakshiminarayanan, Curator for Education

Recent Archaeological Excavations – Mr. A. Abdul Majeeth, Deputy Director i/c, Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu.

In Districts:

The popular lectures were conducted in the district museums for the benefit of the public, scholars and students:

June 1998	Indus Civilisation – Dr. R. Madhivanan (Erode)
	Tamil Civilisation - Dr R. Madhivanan (Erode)
24 th June 1998	History of Sivaganga – Dr. S. M. Thangavelu (Sivaganga)
19 th Nov 1998	Historical Monuments of Sivaganga District – Mr. N Sundararajan, Curator (Sivaganga)
October 1999	The Services to Tamil by Suthanantha Bharathy - Mr. Bakrathanachiappan
	Vanakopadi Nadu – Mr. R. Boonkunran (Vellore)
30 th Nov 1998	History of Arulmigu Thiagarajaswamy Temple-Thiruvavarur – Mr. K. Ravi (Thiruvavarur)
Dec 1998	Idols of Icon Centre – Mr. S. Muniappan (Thiruvavarur)
19 th May 1998	Hero-stones – Prof. S. Raju (Erode)
24 th Dec 1998	Historical Importance of Krishnagiri – Mr. R. Perumal
26 th Dec 1998	Coins – Mr. Nizamuddhin Ahamed.

Besides these Curators delivered special lectures at various places in the subjects mentioned against their names

Mr. K. Lakshminathan, Curator for Education:

1. Ancient Temples and Art Treasures in Nagapattinam District - Nagapattinam District - An Introduction
2. Conservation and Education - Care of Museum Objects
3. Iconography of Cindadevi - Article presented in the seminar conducted by the State Department of Archaeology on 23rd October 1999
4. Jain Iconography - Popular Lecture, 27.10 99

Dr. V. Jeyaraj, Curator, Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory

1. Treasure-troves and Their Conservation - Treasure Trove Objects
2. Role of Chemistry in the Preservation of Biological Specimens - Course on Preservation of Biological Specimens.
3. Amaravati Sculptures - To the Expert Committee which examined the Amaravati Gallery.
4. Conservation of Palm-leaf Manuscripts - Camp on Palm-leaf Manuscripts at Institute of Asian Studies

5. Conservation of Cultural Objects - Refresher Course for College Teachers under the UGC Programme.
6. Conservation of Archaeological Objects - Refresher Course for College Teachers under the UGC Programme.
7. Conservation of Monuments and Rare Objects in Nagapattinam District - Nagapattinam District - An Introduction
8. Display and Storage of Coins in Museums - Seminar of the South Indian Numismatic Society at Kanyakumari (Joint paper)
9. Museums and Galleries in Tamil Nadu - Seminar on Tourism and Museums, New Delhi
10. Characterisation of Bronze Icons in the Government Museum, Chennai - Seminar of the IASC, at Guwahati
11. A Study on the Recent Additions of Bronze Icons from Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu - Seminar of the IASC, at Guwahati
12. Preserving the Kalamkari Paintings in the Government Museum, Chennai - Seminar of the IASC, at Guwahati
13. Conservation of Tanjore Panel Paintings - Seminar of the IASC at Tanjore, 1999
14. The Role of Museums in the Conservation of Temple Antiquities - Seminar of the IASC at Tanjore, 1999
15. Series of lectures were given to the participants of the two courses on Care of Museum Objects in 1998 and 1999 and the Course on Care of Library Materials and Care of Art Objects in 1998 and 1999.
16. Museums in Tamil Nadu, Popular Lecture, 2nd September 1999
17. Archaeological Chemistry - Coimbatore Museum, 16th Oct 1999
18. The Role of Museums in the Preservation of Archaeological Finds in Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu in the View of Archaeology, Seminar conducted by the State Department of Archaeology, 22&23, October 1999.
19. The Motifs and Legends Found on the Coins of Arcot Nawabs, South Indian History Congress, Waniambadi, 24th October 1999.

Mr. P. Jawahar, Curator, Zoology Section:

1. Care of Zoological Specimens - Course on Care of Museum Objects.
2. Birds Found in Nagapattinam District - Nagapattinam District - An Introduction

3. Delivered many lectures in the course on Preservation of Zoological Specimens at Chennai and Palani.

Mr. M. Mohan, Curator, Contemporary Art

1. Purchase of Art Objects through Art Purchase Committee - Treasure-trove Course.
2. Collection of Paintings - Course on Care of Museum Objects
3. Different Types of Fossils - Course on Importance of Geological Specimens.
4. Modern Art From Nagapattinam District - Nagapattinam District - An Introduction
5. Rock Art in Tamil Nadu, Article presented in the Seminar on Tamil Nadu in the View of Archaeology, 23rd October 1999.

Mrs. R. Santhi, Curator, Numismatic Section

1. Care of Coins - Course on Care of Museum Objects
2. Treasure-trove Coins - Course on Treasure-trove Objects
3. Coins Discovered in Nagapattinam District - Nagapattinam District - An Introduction
4. The Hoard from Kanjampatti - Seminar by South Indian Numismatic Conference at Kanyakumari

Mr. J. R. Asokan, Curator, Design and Display Section:

1. Care in Display - Course on Care of Museum Objects both in 1998 and 1999.
2. Display of Geological Specimens - Course on Importance of the Geological Specimens.
3. The Mammals Found in the Bird's Sanctuary at Kodiakkarai - Nagapattinam District - An Introduction

Mr. D. Jawahar Prasadraj, Curator for Geology Section.

1. Care of Geological Specimens - Course on Care of Museum Objects 1998 and 1999.
2. The Mineral Wealth of Nagapattinam District - Nagapattinam District - An Introduction
3. Lectures in the Course on Importance of Geological Specimens in 1998 and 1999.

Mr. R. Balasubramanian, Curator for Archaeology Section:

1. Care of Archaeological Objects - Course on Care of Museum Objects in 1998 and 1999.
2. Treasure-trove Finds and Archaeological Specimens - Course on Treasure-trove Objects.
3. Stone Sculptures - Thanjavur University Refresher Course.
4. Buddhist Bronzes from Nagapattinam - Nagapattinam District - An Introduction

Ms. M. N. Pushpa, Curator for Botany Section

1. Care of Botanical Specimens - Care of Museum Objects in 1998 and 1999.
2. The Plants of Nagapattinam District and Their Medicinal Uses - Nagapattinam District - An Introduction.
3. Many lectures were delivered in the course on Preservation of Biological Specimens.

In Districts:

Mr. M. Gandhi, Curator, Government Museum, Vellore

1. Artistic Sculptures from Kadambur - Presented the paper in Pondicherry Seminar

Dr. C. Maheswaran, Curator, Government Museum, Coimbatore

1. Nilgiri Tribes and Environment
2. Tribes and Environment
3. The contribution of Tribes in the Conservation of Environment
4. The Salient Features of Shola Forests
5. Indigenous Knowledge System of Tribes on Environment
6. Tribal Arts and Crafts of the Nilgiris
7. Some Rare Manuscripts in the Collections of the Government Museum, Coimbatore
8. Mallar Inakkuzhu Varalaru - These articles include the presentation in five seminars.
9. Nagapattinam District Fisherfolk Religion - An Introduction - Seminar on Nagapattinam District - An Introduction
10. Vannatrankarai a Living Site of the Archaeological Man

Mr. P. Sam Sathiaraj, Curator, Government Museum, Madurai

1. Madurai - Its Heritage

Mr. N. Sundararajan, Curator, Government Museum, Sivaganga

1. Historical Monuments in Sivaganga District
2. Nagapattinam and Secularism - Nagapattinam District - An Introduction

Mr. N. Soundara Pandian, Curator, Government Museum, Kanyakumari

1. Inscriptions of Kanyakumari District - Seminar on Avanam
2. Historically Important Nagapattinam - Nagapattinam District - An Introduction

Ms. R. D. Thulasi Brinda, Curator, Government Museum, Krishnagiri

1. Nagapattinam - An Archaeological Study - Seminar on Nagapattinam District - An Introduction.
2. Stone Inscriptions
3. Archaeological Objects
4. Uses of Museums
5. Archaeology

Mr. T. Pakkirisamy, Curator, Government Museum, Ooty

1. Government Museum, Ooty
2. Water Pollution
3. Prehistoric Tamil Nadu
4. The Role of Tribes in the Conservation of the Environment
5. The Development of Man
6. The Prehistoric Period

Ms. S. Krishnammal, Curator, Government Museum, Tirunelveli

1. Cultural Tourism
2. Gods of the Folks
3. Delivered lectures and inaugurated an exhibition in St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai.

Radio-talks / Television Programmes

In Chennai

Vannamanimalai	Mr. K. Lakshiminarayanan
Vannamanimalai	Dr. V. Jeyaraj
Conservation of Art Objects	Mr. R. Kannan, IAS
Zee TV	Dr. V. Jeyaraj
Preservation of Museum Objects	Dr. V. Jeyaraj
	Mr. P. Jawahar
	Mr. D. Jawahar Prasad Raj
	Ms. M. N. Pushpa
Government Museum, Chennai	Mr. K. Lakshiminrayanan
	Mr. Jawahar Prasadraj
	Ms. M. N. Pushpa

In the Districts

Coimbatore:

Interview with Curator-Sun TV	Dr. C. Maheswaran
Radio-talk	Dr. C. Maheswaran

Tirunelveli:

Vannakalanjiam AIR, Chennai	Ms. S. Krishnamml
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Renovation and Improvements to the Museums

In Chennai:

Under the Part II Schemes the following Galleries were renovated and improved:

1. Arms Gallery - Addition of fourteen show cases
2. Musical Instruments Gallery - Addition of two show cases
3. Kathakali Gallery - Addition of one show case
4. Folk Art Gallery - Addition of three show cases
5. Mammals' Gallery renovated and completed
6. Geology Gallery - Eighteen cases were modernised and added to the gallery.
7. Furniture were purchased for the conduct of courses in the Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory.
8. 20 showcases were constructed in aluminium and 12 of them were fitted with technological and scientific working models.
9. Lawn making with the help of Chennai Parrys Lions Club.
10. Arrangement of botanical specimens in the Sangam Plants Showcases

11. District museums at Thiruvavarur, Nagapattinam and Kanchipuram were set up by the Design and Display Section of the Government Museum, Chennai 600 078.

In Districts:

1. Three Showcases were made and added to the Government Museum, Erode.
2. New Showcases were made for the government Museum, Coimbatore and shifted to the new site near the VOC Park. Showcases were made and the museum at Vellore was shifted into the Fort Campus.
3. Front Verandah and District Gallery panels were renovated and added to the Government Museum, Cuddalore.
4. Furniture was added to the Government Museum, Kanyakumari.
5. Twelve showcases were made and added to the Government Museum, Madurai.

Exhibitions

Exhibitions were conducted both in the museums and out side the museums for the benefit of the public and students.

In Chennai

July 1998 Care of Museum Objects
Dec 1998 Mahakavi Bharathi Birthday
Exhibition. The oil painting
of Bharathy drawn by the
artist and freedom fighter
Mr. Arya was gifted to the
museum. It was handed over
by his son Mr. Parthasarathy
to Mr. S. Rangamani, IAS.,
and is displayed in the
Contemporary Art Gallery
of the Museum.



May 1999 Importance of Geological Specimens

June 1999

An exhibition on Care of Museum Objects



August 1999

The Pioneers – An Exhibition of Contemporary Indian Art.

In Districts

Coimbatore

August 1998

Participated in the Science Exhibition

Dec 1998

Recent Collections

Sept 1998

History of Kongu Culture and History

Madurai

May 1998

Photographic Exhibition

Nov 1998

Miniature Bronzes

Nov 1998

Painting Exhibition

Vellore

May 1999

Painting Exhibition

Ooty

Dec 1998

Recent Additions to the Philatelic Collections

Cuddalore

Jan 1999

Philatelic Exhibition

1999

Photographic Exhibition on Rock paintings

Arts and Crafts Exhibition

Krishnagiri

24th Dec

Exhibition on Coins

1998

New Museums and Change of Locations of Museums

The following new district museums were set up and some museums were shifted to new places as follows:

6th July 1998

Government Museum, Thiruvavur

25th January

Government Museum, Nagapattinam

1999

24th March

Government Museum, Kanchipuram

1999

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1 st April | Government Museum, Vellore was shifted to the Vellore Fort Complex |
| March 1999 | Government Museum, Tiruchi was shifted to the Rani Mangammal Palace |
| April 1999 | Government Museum, Coimbatore was shifted to the Library buildings near the VOC Park |
| November 1999 | The Coimbatore Museum was shifted from the Library Buildings to a School in Kattur |

Publications

In Chennai:

Under the Part II Scheme for the year 1998-99 16 books were reprinted and brought to the sales counter in Chennai and district museums

Mr. K. Lakshiminarayanan, Curator for Education

- 1 Salem Town - An Ethnohistory - Book in English, 1999
2. Iconography of Cindadevi - Proceedings of the Seminar on Tamil Nadu in the Archaeology, State Department of Archaeology, Chennai, 22 & 23 October 1999
- 3 Museum and Children, at Salem Museum, 14th November 1999

Dr. V. Jeyaraj, Curator for Chemical Conservation

1. Care of Archival Materials - Book in English
2. Conservation of Temple Objects - Book in Tamil
- 3 Guide to the Government Museum, Nagapattinam (Joint author)
- 4 Proceedings of the Seminar on Nagapattinam District - An Introduction - Book (Joint author)
- 5 Government Museum, Thiruvavur - Pamphlet in Tamil (Joint author)
- 6 Government Museum, Nagapattinam - Pamphlet in Tamil and English (Joint author)

Articles:

- 7 Characterisation of Bronze Icons in the Government Museum, Chennai, IASC, Vol. 30, 1997
8. A Study on the Recent Addition of Bronze Icons from Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu, IASC, Vol 30, 1997 (Joint author)

- 9 Technology of Minting Coins of Arcot Nawabs, SINC, Vol IX, 1999
- 10 Preserving Kalamkari Paintings in the Government Museum, Chennai, IASC, Vol 30, 1997 (Joint author)
- 11 Monuments and Antiquities of Nagapattinam District and Their Conservation, Proceedings of the Seminar on Nagapattinam District - An Introduction, Nagapattinam, 1999
- 12 Stone Inscriptions Found at Ambasamudram, Avanam, 1997.

Mr. P. Jawahar, Curator for Zoology

- 1 Pamphlet on Government Museum, Nagapattinam - In Tamil (Joint author)
2. Birds Found in Nagapattinam District, Proceedings of the Seminar on Nagapattinam District - An Introduction, 1999

Mr. Mohan, Curator for Contemporary Art

- 1 Proceedings of the Seminar on Nagapattinam District - An Introduction (Joint author)
- 2 The Artists From Nagapattinam District, Proceedings of the Seminar on Nagapattinam District - An Introduction, 1999

Ms. R. Santhi, Curator for Numismatics

- 1 Pamphlet on Government Museum, Nagapattinam -In English
- 2 Consecration of Queen Fastina Coins, JNSSI, 1998 (Joint author)
- 3 Coins Recovered from Nagapattinam, Proceedings of the Seminar on Nagapattinam District - An introduction, 1999.

Mr. J. R. Asokan, Curator for Design and Display

- 1 Handbook of the Government Museum, Nagapattinam, 1999 (Joint author)
- 2 The Mammals Found in the Bird's Sanctuary at Kodiakkarai, Proceedings of the Seminar on Nagapattinam District - An Introduction, 1999.

Mr. D. Jawahar Prasadraj, Curator for Geology

- 1 Proceedings of the Seminar on Nagapattinam District - An Introduction, Nagapattinam, 1999 (Joint author)
- 2 The Mineral Wealth of Nagapattinam District, Proceedings of the Seminar on Nagapattinam District - An Introduction, 1999

Mr. R. Balasubramanian, Curator for Archaeology

1. Jain Sculptures in Government Museum, Chennai, 1998.
2. A Study on the Recent Additions of Bronze Icons from Nagapattinam, IASC, Vol. 30. 1997. (Joint author)
3. The Buddhist Icons from Nagapattinam, Proceedings of the Seminar on Nagapattinam District - An Introduction, 1999.

Ms. M. N. Pushpa, Curator for Botany

1. Proceedings of the Seminar on Nagapattinam District - An Introduction, 1999. (Joint author)
2. Plants in Nagapattinam District and Their Medicinal Uses, Proceedings of the Seminar on Nagapattinam District - an Introduction, 1999.

In Districts:

Dr. J. Raja Mohammed, Curator, Government Museum, Pudukkottai

1. International Sea Trade in the Harbour of Nagapattinam, Proceedings of the Nagapattinam District Seminar - An Introduction, 1999.
2. Many articles in various seminars

Dr. C. Maheswaran, Curator, Government Museum, Coimbatore

1. Exhibition Techniques for Ethnographic Materials - Book, 1998.
2. Kurumba Memorial Pillars
3. The Indigenous Knowledge System of Betu Kurumba Tribes of the Nilgiris in Rainwater Harvesting.
4. Some Rare manuscripts in the Collection of Government Museums at Coimbatore and Ooty.

Ms. S. Krishnammal, Curator, Government Museum, Thirunelveli

1. Dying Traditional Arts, Kadhiraavan, 14th April 1998.
2. Ancient Methods of Warefare, Malaimurasu, 18th April, 1998.
3. The Sword, Spring Sword, Boomerang, and Guns of Hyder Ali Period, Kadhiraavan, 25th May 1998.

Mr. G. Karunanidhi, Curator, Government Museum, Thiruvavur

1. Government Museum, Thiruvavur - Pamphlet - (Joint author)

2. Development of Tamil Scripts - Pamphlet

Research Projects

Research is one of the activities of museums. The Curatorial staffs are engaged in research work pertaining to their subjects besides general subjects.

In Chennai:

The following projects are under progress and some are to be started:

1. *Fingerprinting of South Indian Bronzes* - Collaborative work with the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam. (Archaeology and Chemical Conservation)
2. *Holographic Gallery* - Collaborative work with the Centre for Laser Technology, Anna University, Chennai. (Archaeology and Chemical Conservation)
3. Part-time Research Scholar is working on a Project on Conservation of Metal Objects. (Chemical Conservation)
4. Two students studied on Conservation of National Art Gallery and completed their research project, February to April 1998. (Contemporary Art and Chemical Conservation)
5. Survey of Museums, Galleries and Monuments in Tamil Nadu. (Dr. V. Jeyaraj)
6. Survey of Monuments in Tamil Nadu. (Dr. V. Jeyaraj)
7. Documentation on Cannons in Government Museum, Chennai (Mr. R. Kannan IAS and R. Balasubramanian)
8. *Woodcarvings in the Tamil Nadu Museums*. (Mr. R. Balasubramanian)
9. Educational Activities of some Major Museums and Science Centres in India. (Mr. J. R. Asokan)
10. *Sangam Plants*. (Ms. M. N. Pushpa)

In Districts:

1. *Bettā Kurumba Tribes* (Dr. C. Maheswaran, Curator, Government Museum, Coimbatore)
2. *Palm-leaf Manuscripts on Folk Medicinal Practices*. (Dr. C. Maheswaran, Curator, Government Museum, Coimbatore)

3. Panya Tribes. (Dr. C. Maheswaran, Curator, Government Museum, Coimbatore)

Project Reports

A team headed by the Commissioner of museums, Mr. R. Kannan, IAS., went to the Kanchi Mutt University and prepared a report on the establishment of a museum for the University.

The following reports were prepared:

1. Reorganisation of the Elliot Museum, Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Egmore. (Dr. V. Jeyaraj & Mr. J. R. Asokan)
2. Restoration Paintings for Nrayana Guruviah Charities. (Dr. V. Jeyaraj)
3. Restoration of Painting with Aarya. (V. Jeyaraj)
4. Survey of Museums, Galleries and Monuments in Tamil.Nadu. (Dr. V. Jeyaraj)
5. Restoration of Paintings in the Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai. (Dr. V. Jeyaraj)
6. Restoration of Oil Paintings in the Madras Medical College. (Dr. V. Jeyaraj)
7. Report on the Rorganisation of the Temple Museum at the Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai, (J. R. Asokan)
8. Restoration of Oil Paintings at Madras Christian College, Chennai - 600 059. (Dr. V. Jeyaraj)
9. Notes on the proposed History Museum, Chennai. (K. Lakshiminarayanan)

Conservation Work Carried Out

Chemical Conservation:

Sixty seven bronze icons, forty-five stone sculptures including lime stone -sculptures from Amaravati, four brass vessels, fifteen wood carvings, twenty one textiles such as wall hangings, eightysix paintings consisting of oil on canvas, water colour, line drawings, Tanjore panel paintings, thirty seven iron weapons, forty six anthropological objects like musical and tribal materials, three thousand one hundred and twenty-seven copper coins, one hundred and eighty seven silver coins, twenty five lead coins, one weighing machine, ten leather puppets, seven toys from Kondapalli, two palm-leaf manuscripts, five musical instruments, six ceramics were suitably treated and preserved.

Pest control was made to galleries and the storage in the museum buildings through T.N.W. H. Corporation, Chennai.

Skins, jungle cats and wild dogs, parrots, spoon bill, open bill, sambar, Seacow, two days, Orang Vudan, wild Cat, Spine pig, ant eater etc., were conserved by the zoology section suitably.

Conservation Services

Among the ten oil paintings received from the Madras Medical College for restoration three paintings were restored and handed over to the Madras Medical College by the Commissioner of Museums, Mr. R. Kannan, IAS., on 5th September 1999.

Four paintings for the Narayana Guruviah Charities, three paintings for the Vemuru Ranganatham Chetty Charities, one painting for Ms. Y. A. Durga Divya Prasad and a marble statue in the Presidency. College were suitably preserved on charge basis Paintings, books, photographs from the Government Ophthalmic Hospital are being restored.

Members of Expert Committees

Commissioner of Museums was appointed as expert committee members in many evaluation committees and the following Curators were nominated as members as follows:

Non-antiquity Committee	-	Mr. K. Lakshiminarayanan and Mr R. Balasubramanian
Antiquities Evaluation Committees	-	Mr. K. Lakshiminarayanan Dr. V. Jeyaraj Mr. R. Balasubramanian

Staff Changes

In the place of Mr. S. Rngamani, IAS, Mr. Rajiv Wallia, IAS., joined on 12th April 1999. Mr. R. Kannan, I.A.S, joined as the Commissioner of Museums on 23rd May 1999.

Dr. N. Devasahayam, Deputy Director of Museums, retired from service on 30th June 1998. Mr. P. Jawahar, Curator for Zoology Section took additional

charge of the Anthropology Section from the Deputy Director of Museums on 30th June 1998.

Mr. P. Kasilingam joined as the Curator for Erode Museum on 7th August 1998 vice Ms. J. Kanthimathi.

Ms. R. T. Thulasi Brindha joined as Curator of the Krishnagiri Museum on 27th August 1998 vice Mr. P. Sam Sathiaraj.

Mr. A. Periasamy, Curator for Palani Museum was holding additional charge of the Madurai Museum from 2nd February to 31st August 1998. Mr. P. Sam Sathiaraj joined as Curator in the Government Museum, Madurai on 31st August 1998.

Mr. M. Gandhi, Curator, Government Museum, Vellore was holding additional charge of the Cuddalore Museum.

Mr. G. Karunanidhi, Curator was transferred to Thiruvannamalai to establish a museum at Thiruvannamalai.

Mr. T. Pakkirisamy, Assistant Curator for Anthropology Section was promoted as Curator and posted to Government Museum, Ooty on 28th November 1998 and again transferred to Sivaganga on 1st December 1999.

Mr. K. Saravanan, Assistant Curator for Archaeology was promoted as Curator for Government Museum, Nagapattinam on 11th December 1998.

Mr. J. Mullai Arasu, Assistant Curator for Botany was promoted and posted as Curator, Government Museum, Kanchipuram on 11th December 1999 and transferred to Erode.

Mr. S. Palanisamy, Mrs. D. V. Uma Maheswari and Mr. P. Saravanakumar, joined as Guides on 9th June 1999, 10th June 1999 and 22nd July 1999 respectively.

Mr. N. Sundararajan, Curator for Sivaganga Museum was transferred to Cuddalore Museum on 1st December 1999

Mr. K. Govindaraj, Assistant Curator, Government Museum, Pudukkottai was promoted as Curator, Government Museum, Ooty on 1st December 1999.

Tamil Nadu Scientist Award To Dr. N. Devasahayam

The Tamil Nadu Science council for Science and Technology has given the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award for 1998 to Dr N Devasahayam, former Deputy Director of Museums. The citation reads as follows:

In view of the significant contribution relevant to the public and society Dr. N. Devasahayam had made through his work in the discipline of Applied Anthropology is privileged to award him with the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) for the year 1998 in the field of Social Science.

ARTICLES

BOOMERANGS IN THE COLLECTIONS OF CHENNAI STATE MUSEUM

Dr. C. Maheswaran

Curator, Government Museum, Coimbatore

1. On Introducing the Boomerang

Boomerangs probably the most primitive of all weapons, are the flattened, angled, curved clubs designed primarily for throwing. The hunters through the ages have used the various forms of boomerangs to throw at the low flying flocks of birds and or to kill the small games caught in snares or larger ones wounded by spears, arrows, etc; and the boomerangs have also been used for close-combat fighting. Such a weapon of hunting and or warfare have also been used in ritual observance.

Generally, Australia is conceived as the homeland of boomerangs. However, copious evidences are available to state that the people of other cultures like American Indians, Ancient Egyptians, Romans, Danish and South Indians were also capable of handling the boomerangs. Further, it is observed that even today the boomerangs are in vogue among the African tribes, the Hopi Indians of Arizona, the Koli tribes of Kutch district of Gujarat and so.

Originally, the boomerangs were shaped from a suitably curved root, by warping the wood over fire and bending when it is warm. Presently, the boomerangs differ greatly from the plain, fire hardened wooden ones to the complicated ones such as elaborately designed and curved boomerangs.

Classification of Boomerangs

Traditionally, a single material such as wood, bone, horn, ivory or stone has been used in making a boomerang. Later, the boomerangs have been made by a variety of materials including metals and also in a variety of shapes and sizes. Accordingly, owing to the criteria such as 'material', 'shape', 'flight' and 'purpose', the boomerangs could be classified as follows:

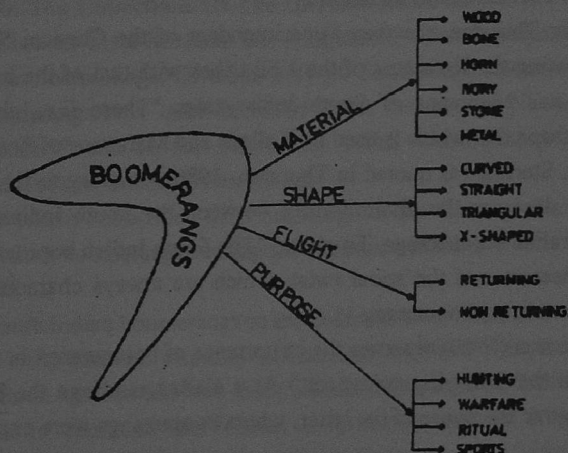
Interestingly, of the above four criteria, the criterion of flight alone is construed as the vital one since the remaining criteria become inclusive within it. For instance, the 'returning-type boomerangs' (hereforth shall be referred to as the 'returning boomerangs'), being used in the 'domain' of sports alone and the 'non-

returning type boomerangs' (henceforth shall be referred to as the 'non-returning boomerangs'), being used in the domains of hunting, warfare, and ritual could be covered within the 'criterion of purpose'. Accordingly, in this juncture, both the returning and non-returning boomerangs are dealt with in some detail.

The returning boomerangs fly and return to the thrower effectively due to their possession of the following three salient features:

- The hyperbolic curve of the arms.
- The relative higher curvature of one of their surfaces than the other one and
- The relative twist of an arm by an angle of 20 to 30° over the other, making it to resemble the propeller of an aeroplane or the blade of a fan.

The non-returning boomerangs, by contrast, are relatively heavier and are used more often as weapons of hunting or of warfare. Furthermore, they are used in ritualism as well. Accordingly, their arms are angled with sharp edges.



British Administrators' Remarks Over The Indian Boomerangs

The Indian boomerangs were studied, to some extent, by the British administrators. Thurston in his monumental work entitled "Ethnographic Notes of

Southern India" (Vol. I) which contains the corollary materials of his series of works on 'Castes and Tribes of Southern India'- presents the detailed remarks of the British administrators over the Indian boomerangs.

According to General Balfour, the first Officer-in-charge of the Chennai State Museum (as quoted in Thurston, 1980), "Two types of boomerangs are peculiar to India. One of the boomerang types is of a single, curved, wooden boomerang possessed by the Koli tribes of the Kutch region of Gujarat and is referred to as Katareea. These 'Katareeas' were used for throwing at hares, wild boars and other animals. The South Indian form of boomerang belongs to the Maravans of Madurai and differs in the shape both from the above and the Australian type. The contour of this Maravan boomerang is almost crescent, perfectly flat but much broader at the more remote or distant extremity; and its narrower proximal end (i.e. the handle) is usually curved roughly. This type, although commonly made of wood, is not infrequently constructed of steel, or sometimes even of ivory.

Colonel. Lance Fox (as quoted in Thurston, 1980) commented upon the boomerangs used by the Koli tribes of Gujarat in the following words" These (i.e. the boomerangs of the Koli tribes of Gujarat) conform to the natural curvature of the wood like the Australian boomerang".

Edgar Thurston, the then Superintendent of the Chennai State Museum (1980) comparing the Katareeas of the Koli tribes with that of the boomerangs of the Kallans and Maravans of South India states "These (i.e., the Katareeas) resemble in shape that which is used by Kallans and Maravans of South India".

S.C. Sterling (as quoted in Thurston, 1980), contrary to the observations of Thurston, deserves the dissimilarities between the South Indian boomerangs and the Australian boomerangs. To quote, "The South Indian boomerangs lack the blade-like flatness and the spiral twist, which are always characteristics of the true Australian return boomerang.

Thurston (1980) observes the importance of boomerangs in the social life of Kallans in the following statement:" At a Kallan marriage the bride and the bridegroom go to the house of the latter, where boomerangs were exchanged and a feast is held.

In this letter to Thurston, the then Diwan of Pudukottai gives fairly comprehensive accounts of South Indian boomerangs as follows (cf. Thurston, 1980):" The Valari or Valai Thadi is a short weapon, generally made of some hard grained wood. It is crescent shaped, one end being heavier than the other, the

outer edge is sharpened. Men trained in the use of the weapon held it by the lighter end, whirl it a few times over their shoulders to give it impetus and then hurl it with great force against the object aimed at. Traditions state that the instrument played a considerable part in the Poligar was of the last century".

Robert Bruce Foot (as quoted in Thurston, 1980) presents an account of the boomerangs of Madurai district as given below:

"A very favorite weapon of the Madura country, is a kind of carved throwing stick, having a general likeness to the boomerang of the Australian aborigines. I had an opportunity of seeing these boomerangs in use near Sivaganga in March 1883. In the morning, I came across many parties, small and large, of men and big boys who were out here with a few dogs. Whenever an unlucky hare started out near enough to the hunters, it was greeted with a volley of boomerangs, so strongly and dexterously thrown that the poor puss had little chance of escape. Whether a dexterous Maravan could make his weapon return to him, I could not find out. Certainly in none of the throws observed by me was any tendency to a return perceptible. But for simple, straight shots these boomerangs answer admirably".

Boomerangs In The Collections Of The Chennai Museum

The Chennai State Museum has altogether 34 South Indian boomerangs and 7 Australian boomerangs. Of them, only 10 South Indian boomerangs and 4 Australian boomerangs have been exhibited in the 'Boomerang Showcase' of the 'Ethnology Gallery' and in the 'Australian Tribal Culture showcase' of the 'Foreign Tribal Culture Gallery' respectively.

Of the whole collections of boomerangs in the Chennai State Museum, only one Australian boomerang, bearing the accession number 4/49 is of returning type.

The South Indian boomerangs in the collections of Chennai State Museum include 3 (two ivory and one wooden) boomerangs acquired from the 'Thanjavur Armoury'; 5 (three wooden and two iron) boomerangs acquired from 'Pudukottai Museum'; a set of 'Maravan' and 'Kallan' boomerangs; and 26 (two brass, six wooden and eighteen iron) boomerangs acquired from one Mr. Naidu of Sivakasi and kept in the 'Reserve Collections'. Accordingly, the South Indian boomerangs acquired from the above cited three sources, could be listed as follows:

a) From Thanjavur Armoury (through transfer)

Boomerangs bearing the Accession numbers 1152, 1153 and 1154.

- b) From Pudukottai Museum (through transfer)
Boomerangs bearing the Accession numbers 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151 and 1155.
- c) From one Mr. Naidu of Sivakasi (through transfer)
- d) Boomerangs bearing the Accession number 5/60(6 nos.), 6/60 (18 nos.) and 11/60(2 nos).

In general, the details of all the boomerangs that are in the collections of the Chennai State Museum Could be tabulated into A. Boomerangs exhibited in the 'Ethnology Gallery' of Chennai State Museum [cf. Table- I] B. Boomerangs exhibited in the 'Australian Tribal Culture showcase' of Chennai State Museum [cf. Table-II] and C. Boomerangs kept in the 'Reserve Collections' of Chennai State Museum [cf. Table-III].

Present Status Of Boomerangs

As the mankind has been progressing towards more advanced cultural level, more and more sophisticated methods and tools of hunting and warfare have been devised day by day and hence, these primitive weapons of human beings (i.e., the boomerangs) have gradually been losing their flair. Consequently, they have almost ceased to be the indispensable implements of daily use and have been started to be used in a more symbolic way during ceremonial occasions alone. For instance, the South Indian boomerangs are regarded now-a days merely as a legendary weapon among the Maravans and Kallans of Southern Tamilnadu; as time passed, these were used as clap sticks, as evidenced by the name attributed to them as "Kuravaikkoothu Valai Thadihal". And today, they are found only in their ritual floor drawings, the 'Kolungal'.

Contrary to the situation in Southern India, boomerang making remained as an aboriginal craft in Australia until quite recently; And the present day Australian aborigines started to inculcate this native craft to the interested and enthusiastic Australian white community as well. Consequently, at present, we could perceive innumerable emerging enthusiasts with returning boomerangs as their instrument of sports; and these players today make copies of each other's boomerangs and learn new types as well and thereby many new types are born everyday.

Chennai State Museum occupies the prestigious place among the Indian museums by possessing the world famous 'South Indian Boomerangs' as well as their Australian counterparts [along with a unique returning boomerang]; And

thus, it stands as the real treasure-house for the numerous enthusiasts and researchers who wish to perceive and study these primitive tools of mankind.

Foot Notes

1. The boomerangs derive their name from their characteristic sound boom that is produced during their operation.
2. According to Thurston (1980), the Katareeas were discussed and figured in Egerton's 'Indian and Oriental Armor'.
3. As S.C. Stirling's statement is concerned with the returning boomerangs, he might have perceived this obvious dissimilarity between the South Indian boomerangs and that of the Australian boomerangs. But, if we realize the fact that all-Indian boomerangs which have been used in hunting and warfare chiefly are all non-returning. From this, we could infer that the Indian boomerangs definitely show structural similarities with that of the non-returning boomerangs of the Australian continent.
4. This custom, now-a-days, is an obsolete one. However, the following common saying that is still prevalent among the Maravans and Kallans of Southern Tamilnadu: "Send the boomerang and bring the bride" will vouch for their age old custom of boomerangs between the affinal kin.
5. Interestingly enough, even this single returning boomerang has been described as a 'hunting weapon' and not as an object of sports in the Accession register concerned.
6. It is interesting to note that although all these 26 boomerangs of same size and shape were purchased from one person (i.e., one Mr. Naidu) from one single area (i.e., Sivakasi) the boomerangs bearing the accession numbers 6/60 and 11/60 alone are referred to as the 'Kuravaikkoothu Valai Thadihal'.
7. The fact that the boomerangs have been found to be depicted in the Rock art sites of Europe and in the Hero-stones of Southern India suggests to us that these primitive weapons of hunting and warfare were in continued utility since prehistoric and ancient historic periods throughout the world.

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Table -I

Boomerangs exhibited in the Ethnology Gallery of Chennai State Museum

Serial No.	Accession No.	Description of the boomerang	Remarks, if any
1	1148	South Indian Boomerang - Wood	Acquired from Pudukottai
2	1149	-do- -do-	-do-
3	1150	-do- -do-	-do-
4	1151	-do- -do-	-do-
5	1152	-do- -do-	Acquired from Thanjavur armory through transfer.
6	1153	-do- -do-	-do-
7	1154	-do- -do-	-do-[The distal end is with brass ornate design]
8	1155	-do- -do-	Acquired from Pudukottai Museum
9	5/60	-do- -do-	Purchased from one Mr. Naidu Of Sivakasi.
10	5/60	-do- -do-	-do-

Table -II

Boomerangs exhibited in the Australian Tribal Culture showcase of Chennai State Museum

Serial No.	Accession No.	Description of the Boomerang	Remarks, if any
1	1/49	North Central Australian type, wood; Non-returning	Acquired in exchange from Mr Herbert M. Hale, Director, South Australian Museum, Adelaide.

		type, used in warfare [swan neck type].	
2	3/49	South Central Australian type; Non- returning type; used in warfare.	-do-
3	4/49	Western Australian type, wood; Returning type; used in hunting.	-do-
4	6/49	Copper Creek type; wood; Non-returning type; used in warfare.	-do-

Table - III

Boomerangs kept in the reserve collections of Chennai State Museum

Serial No.	Accession No.	Description of the Boomerang	Remarks, if any
1	1156	Australian boomerang; wood	Acquired from the Australian Museum, Sydney
2	2/49	North Central Australian type; wood; used in warfare.	Acquired on exchange from Mr. Herbert M. Hale, Director, South Australian Museum, Adelaide.
3	5/49	Diamantina type; wood; Non-returning type; used in warfare	-do-
4	5/60[4 nos.]	South Indian boomerang; Wood	Acquired by purchase from one Mr. Naidu of Sivakasi
5	6/60[18 nos.]	-do- Iron	-do-
6	11/60 [2 nos.]	-do- Brass	-do-

ANALYSIS OF A BRONZE ANKLET FROM KERALA

Dr. V. Jeyaraj,

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Introduction

According to ICOM, museum is a non-profit making permanent institution, which collects, preserves, does research on them, studies, displays, and educates people while making the visitors to enjoy. Government Museum, Chennai is a multipurpose museum, which has in its collection thousands of objects. It adds its collection through field exploration, treasure-trove finds, gifts, purchase, loan, exchange, bequest and also by transfer. The Honiourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M. Karunanidhi gifted a copper anklet, which was presented to him by Thiru. L. L. Thiyagarajan on 31st October 1997 to the Government Museum, Chennai and is preserved in the anthropology section of the museum. The experts in the museum subjected the anklet to the iconographic and scientific examinations. The details of the objects and analytical data are briefed in this paper.

History of Anklets

Normally, anklet is an ornament made of gold, silver or copper or their alloys in the ancient Tamil Nadu. In Tamil, anklet is called silambu (silambal means making sound). Since the balls inside the anklet make sound, they were called silambu. In Silappathikaram, it is described that the anklet of Kopperundevi, wife of Pandian Nedunchezhian, was made of pearl; the anklet of Kannagi, wife of Govalan, was made out of manickam. There were different types of anklets viz. Manjira, talakoti, nupura-padangada and hamsaka. Jhataka tales call it palipada. The anklet of this study resembles more or less a nupura variety.

The designs on the anklet are similar to karundamakuta of the sculptures representing lady figures. It is learnt that when undersea archaeological exploration was carried out in Cochin the anklet was found at a depth of 60 feet.

Description of the Anklet:

The overall shape of the anklet is oval. The front view of the anklet is decorated with flower design and a central embossed circle with four circles at

both sides, which are provided with rosetted dots as borders. At the end of the fourth circle, there are designs like the maguda at both the ends. The bottom of the anklet has a tubular structure, to hold the pebbles, and a linear opening to produce sound while walking. One side tubular structure is broken. There is a ring attached at the front of the tube like structure. There is another ring attached to the linear opening. Similar ring would have been at the left side also. But, due to the loss of material, it is not seen.



Anklet—Bottom View

Dimensions of the Anklet

The anklet is oval shaped. The dimensions are as follows:

Table: 1

Length	17.00 cms
Breadth	13.00 cms
Thickness	3.00 cms
Weight	295.00 gms

Condition of the Anklet

The anklet is fairly in good condition. The object doesn't seem to be buried for quite long time. The colour of the object is light green due to little corrosion. It is bright at the front side, which may be recent abrasion done by the collector at the time of cleaning. The bottom side is porous when compared to the outer surface of the anklet.

Chemical Study of the Anklet

A minute sample from the broken side of the anklet was subjected to atomic absorption spectroscopic and ICP analyses. The results are tabulated.

Table: 2

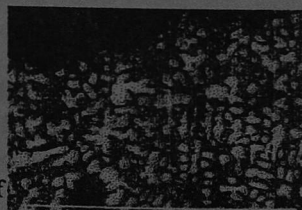
Serial No.	Element	Concentration %	Grade
1	Copper*	75.000	Major
2	Tin*	19.300	Major
3	Lead*	4.200	Major
4	Zinc**	0.110	Minor

4	Zinc**	0.110	Minor
5	Iron**	0.110	Minor
6	Nickel**	0.035	Trace
7	Silver **	0.035	Trace
8	Antimony**	0.080	Trace
9	Bismuth**	0.005	Trace
10	Cobalt**	0.005	Trace

The major elements* were analysed by atomic absorption spectroscopy, the minor and trace elements were analysed by ICP. The ESCA analysis confirmed the higher quantity of copper and tin.

Metallographic Studies

A polished metallic specimen presents a number of elevations and depressions composed of interesting crystal faces and granular appearance owing to its roughness, when a beam of light is allowed to impinge obliquely on the surface of the etched specimen. If this is done insitu, it is called insitu metallography. The microstructure visible is photomicrographed under specific magnifications and interpreted. The rounded alpha dendritic phases in all the bronze icons revealed slow cooling of sand casting. Dark irregular voids are the presence of blowholes (shrinkage cavities) which are normally found in the sand mould cast objects. The large spacing between the dendritic arms in a dendritic structure revealed the slow cooling of a cast. The equiaxed polyhedral grain structure proved annealing or slow cooled casting of a homogeneous liquid alloy. Annealing i.e. heated to red heat and cooled slowly, resulted in the acquired polyhedral structure. A number of terracotta coin moulds had been unearthed in Tamil Nadu proving the clay moulds for casting.



Micrograph of the anklet

In this study the anklet was subjected to metallography by taking a small piece from the broken side of the anklet. The polished metallic surface was etched by suitable etchants and the micrographs were taken at different magnifications. The microstructures are found to be dendritic in character and anklet has experienced slow cooling. The mould of the anklet might be a sand mould.

Results and Discussion

Iconographically, the anklet can be associated with the Chola period antiquities. The design on the anklet is similar to the karandamakuta of lady deities of the Chola period. The chemical analyses have proved that the anklet is made of bronze. The higher amount of tin has contributed to the anklet hardness there by good sound. The metallographic studies have proved that this anklet was made by sand casting, which was in vogue during the ancient times. The x-ray studies have given an idea that the technology was so great that there was no shrinkage cavity. The stylistic feature like karandamakuta, the casting technique, the composition of the anklet has made us to offer our opinion that the anklet belongs to the 10th century AD.

Conclusion

The bronze casting technology existed during that time was solid casting and also hollow casting. Solid casting was in vogue and the anklet is an example of hollow casting using mould. Comparison of similar anklets with the present one will reveal excellent information about the technology further. The supremacy in casting may be kept forever if the traditional casters keep up with the technical expertise available with them.

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REMARKABLE FOREIGN ANIMALS IN THE CHENNAI MUSEUM

P. Jawahar,
Curator, Zoology Section.

Chennai Museum is primarily devoted to specimens of South Indian fauna. A small group of animals from foreign countries form outstanding ones. Among them, the Orangutan, Tapir, Cassowary, Kangaroo, Ostrich, Opossum, Armadillo, Raccoon are remarkable exhibits.

A large male specimen of Anthropoid ape, the orangutan is displayed grasping the branch of a tree as it habitually does and is accompanied by a mounted skeleton of smaller specimen of the same animal. The orangutan lives in the dense forests of Borneo and Sumatra. The great length of the arms enables the animal to swing rapidly from branch to branch. This ape lives among the branches of trees and constructs a nest on a tree in which it sleeps at night.



In the foreign animals' gallery, a fine specimen of the Malayan Tapir is exhibited. Tapirs are found in South and Central America and in the Malay peninsula, Java and Sumatra, representing the example of discontinuous distribution. They are nocturnal in habit and frequent the most secluded parts of the forest, feeding on vegetation. They can walk along the bottom of rivers and are capable of remaining under water for a long time. Young tapirs are spotted and streaked but adults have only a plain, broad white patch across the body.

The cassowary is a flightless bird and is confined to the Australian region, where it inhabits densely wooded country in the neighborhood of creeks and streams. It feeds mainly on fallen fruits in the jungle. It is a swift runner and can leap over high obstacles. The eggs are large and are incubated by the male.

The skin of a large male kangaroo was presented to this Museum by the South Australian Museum in exchange of skins and skulls of the Indian pariah dog. The skin of the kangaroo was later stuffed and mounted and displayed in the foreign animals' gallery. The kangaroo is a herbivorous marsupial, confined to the Australian region. The female bears a pouch in which the newly born young are carried about for a considerable period. The forelimbs are weak and are used mainly in feeding, but the powerful hind limbs enable them to progress by long

leaps and bounds. A small skeleton of a young kangaroo, a mounted specimen of the duck-billed platypus and the spiny ant-eater which are also confined to Australia are on display.

Nine-banded Armadillo

It is found in the forests of South America from Guyana to Argentina. It is a peculiar animal, the upper side of the body is covered with plates, which consist partly of horn produced by the outer layer of the skin, and partly of bone from underlying layers. Armadillos feed principally on insects, larvae and worms. The number of teeth may, in fact, vary from 28-100, all of which are weak and ill adapted for biting and chewing. The tongue is worm-shaped and well fitted for licking up ants and termites.

Opossum

Opossum are found in dense woodland in the eastern part of the United States, where they climb about the trees with great skill. They are mainly nocturnal and feed on small mammals, birds, eggs, insects and worms. The opossums are rat-like pouched animals.

Raccoon

Raccoon is found in the southern parts of North America. They feed on birds, fish, eggs, snails and insects. They usually wash the food before eating it. The female has 4-8 young, often in a hollow tree.

Ostrich

Ostriches are found on the savannas of Africa from the Sahara southwards. They feed on fruits and small mammals, the young birds, lizards and insects. The male is larger than the female; the male usually collects 3-4 females and scrapes a hollow for the nest in which the females lay their eggs, which weigh three pounds. There are often 15-20 eggs in a nest. The male incubates by night and one of the females by day, sometimes the eggs are covered with sand and kept warm by the sun. In the same showcase preserved eggs of ostrich, cassowary and hen are displayed to illustrate the comparative size of the eggs.

Apart from these foreign animals, macaw parrots, Californian Quail and some molluscan shells are also on display in this gallery.

PANICKER'S WORK OF ART

R. Mohan,

Curator, Contemporary Art Section

Chennai came into more prominence in respect of Contemporary Indian Art Movement in Post Independence. Right from the beginning of its inception the Madras School of Arts and Crafts had produced many outstanding artists. Among them K.C.S. Panicker was a talented artist. He was the force behind the Madras Art Movement.

He joined the Madras Art School in 1936 and got Diploma in painting in 1940 with distinction. He started painting water color landscapes in 1922 and was deeply impressed by the work of John Sell Cotman, a British water colorist. Panicker learnt painting course under the eminent artist D.P. Roy Chowdhary. He had participated in many art exhibitions held in India and abroad and won several prizes and medals. He was the principal of the Government School of Arts and Crafts, Madras during 1959-67 and made notable contributions in modern Indian art. The Government of India nominated K. C. S. Panicker as one of the nine eminent artists in India in 1954.

The art section of the Chennai Museum has in its collection four of Panicker's paintings. Among these, three are exhibited. They are namely 'Young Mother, Mother and Child and Boats on Canal'. The medium of these paintings is oil. These paintings are displayed in the Contemporary Art Gallery. The work by the artist in these paintings is noted for simplified color compositions.



The painting "Boats on Canal" was painted in 1952 and was acquired for this museum in 1954.

SATI STONES

A. Periasamy

Curator, Government Museum, Palani.

A Mastikkal or Mahasatikal or Sati stone is a stone raised in honor the Sati or Pattini (a chaste woman) who 'heroically' followed her dead husband, by committing sati or suicide which was considered a glorious act. In India Sati was venerated on a goddess (eg. Kannagi in the Tamil country) and in certain places the most solemn of all oaths was that on her.

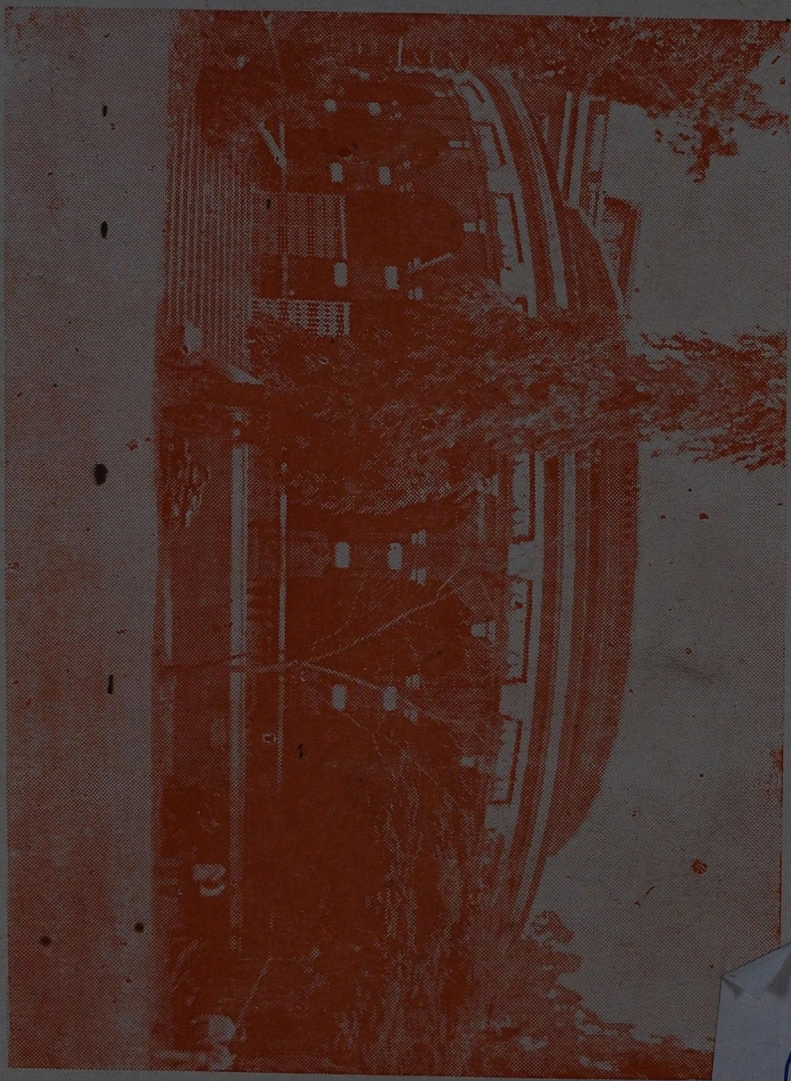
This institution (of committing suicide following husband's death) owes its origin to the oldest religious views and superstitions of mankind in general. It was widely prevalent among the ancient Greeks, Germans and Egyptians. It was deep rooted among the Chinese until the beginning of the 20th Century in spite of imperial prohibitions. Everywhere it was confined to the families of kings and nobles and met with public approval.

SATI STONES IN INDIA

Sati stones are found all over India, but everywhere the hero stones outnumber the Sati stones. According to the Silapadikaram, Senguttuvan the Chera king brought a stone from the Himalayas, consecrated it in the Ganges and installed it in honour of Kannagi in South India. It must be a Mastikkal. Its location is not known. If found, it may be one of the earliest Sati stones in India.

The sati stones are large in number in the Karnataka. A few only are found in the northwestern border of the Kongu region. In Karnataka the stone is called Mastamma. Mostly the stone contains a relief of a single arm stretched upwards and attached to a pillar. There can be one arm (Ondi Kai Masti) or two arms (Erandu Kai Masti) or three arms emerging from the pillar according to the number of wives committed sati. Sometimes one of the arms bears a lemon or a lotus wherever the Sati is shown in full figure, she is shown richly ornamented. It is said that the Masti sculptures found in Bommanahalli are the finest specimen in Karnataka.

Many Masti stones with the symbol of hand and arm with bangles, emerging from a pillar are found in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Often sun and moon symbols are also depicted on these slabs.



MUSEUM THEATRE, A. D. 1896